



Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Kentucky Department of Corrections

**For Immediate Release**

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**Department of Corrections Presents Award  
To Senator Tom Jensen, Representative John Tilley**

*Phil Parker named Warden of the Year; Mark Davidson  
takes Probation & Parole Supervisor of the Year honor*

**Frankfort, Ky. (Sept. 12, 2011)** - The Kentucky Department of Corrections honored two veteran lawmakers with the agency's 2011 Lucille Hurt Robuck "Commitment to Corrections" Award, during its annual awards banquet last week. Senator Tom Jensen, R-London, and Rep. John Tilley, D-Hopkinsville, were selected as recipients of the award. Senator Jensen was on hand at the awards banquet in Lexington to receive the honor.

Senator Jensen and Rep. Tilley were chosen for their diligent work in passage of House Bill 463. Although the two legislators hail from different political parties, they worked side by side when it came time to push for passage of what has been called the most significant piece of legislation to come out of the General Assembly in decades. The criminal reform legislation is expected to save the Commonwealth approximately \$422 million over the next decade.

Also honored at the awards ceremony was Phil Parker, who was named "Warden of the Year." Parker, a 27-year veteran of the Department of Corrections, is warden at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, the state's only maximum-security prison.

Mark Davidson was named "Probation & Parole Supervisor of the Year." Davidson, a 15-year veteran of Corrections, is Probation and Parole supervisor of District 8.

The "Rookie of the Year" award was presented to Alan Watt. Watt is the Maintenance Branch Manager at Roederer Correctional Complex and was honored for his tireless work to ensure his institution was in tip-top shape for an upcoming audit.

The department honored 13 individuals with "Hero Awards" for performing acts of extraordinary courage and compassion to help someone in need, and in doing so saved a life.

Hero Award recipients included:

Barry Myrick and John Morrison, Correctional Officers, Kentucky State Penitentiary; Michael Mitchell and Jennifer Price, Probation & Parole Officers, District 19; Amy Ford, Office Support Assistant II, Janna Carmen, Classification Treatment Officer, and Bruce Cooney, Unit Administrator II, Green River Correctional Complex; Timothy Walker and Cindy Smith, Probation and Parole Officers, District 17; James Ward, Correctional Officer, Kentucky State Penitentiary; Charles "Chuck" Rowe, Letha Bailey, Brian Melvin, Probation and Parole Officers, District 11.

And the agency's top awards, called "Commissioner's Awards," were presented to:

Cyndi Heddleston, Accreditation Manager, Division of Probation and Parole; Brigid Adams, Interim Branch Manager, Re-Entry Branch; Jamie Strang, Classification Treatment Officer, Webb Strang, Unit Administrator I, Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women; Stephanie Wilkerson, Fiscal Manager, Northpoint Training Center; Amanda Coulter, Executive Staff Advisor, Bobbie Underwood, Branch Manager, Leslie Tindall, Branch Manager, Personnel Division; Dr. Liz McKune, Assistant Director, Division of Mental Health; Dan Fountain, Assistant Supervisor, Division of Probation and Parole District 19; Jenny Noe, Administrative Specialist III, Kentucky State Reformatory.

Corrections Commissioner LaDonna Thompson was honored at the conclusion of the banquet with a special award recognizing her ongoing leadership and devotion to the department.

(A complete listing of the awards can be found on the Department's website at <http://corrections.ky.gov/about/Pages/OurEmployees.aspx>)